

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 11

Resolution No. 147-2026

Introduced by: the Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

SHORT TITLE: Appointment – Jack Morris Powell– SMART Data Center Task Force

TITLE: A RESOLUTION appointing Jack Morris Powell to the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force as an appointee for the County Executive.

Introduced and read first time sep 8, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on sep 22, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ☒, Adopted with amendments ☐, Failed ☐, Withdrawn ☐, by the County Council on Oct 5, 2026.

Certified By Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

WHEREAS, on June 1st, 2026, the Howard County Council approved Council Bill 31-2026, which established a temporary prohibition of issuance of certain approvals of development plans on data processing centers, and called for the creation of the SMART (Strategic Moratorium for Assessing Responsible Technology) Data Center Task Force (the “Task Force”); and

WHEREAS, the members of the Task Force are tasked with developing a definition of “Data Center” for the Zoning Regulations; recommending best practices for data center siting and location, setbacks and screening, water consumption and impact, power and energy infrastructure, noise and acoustic mitigation, impact fees or excise tax application, decommissioning plans, removing the data center tax credit; and assessing the impact of data centers on the Howard County Climate Forward: Climate Action and Resiliency Plan; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Council Bill 31-2026, each Councilmember shall nominate one member to the Task Force and the County Executive shall nominate no more than six members with all members appointed by individual Council Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has the utmost confidence in the abilities and the character of:

Jack Morris Powell

Columbia, Maryland

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland this 5 day of October, 2026 that Jack Morris Powell be appointed as a member of the SMART Data Center Task Force of Howard County, Maryland, to serve from the date this Resolution is adopted until August 3, 2027, or until a successor is appointed.

Jack Powell

Columbia, Maryland • [linkedin.com/in/jack-powell-57409623a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jack-powell-57409623a)

WORK EXPERIENCE

IBEW Local 24	01/2024 – Present
Membership Development	Maryland, United States
Power Solutions	08/2023 – 01/2024
Journeyman Wireman QA/QC/Cx	
Freestate Electric	03/2018 – 05/2023
Apprentice Electrician	Baltimore, Maryland, United States

EDUCATION

Journeyman Wireman in Electrician	
Baltimore Electrical JATC	01/2018 – 12/2023
Degree	
James M Bennett High School	

CERTIFICATIONS

Assessing and Running Campaigns	08/2024 – Present
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)	
Politics, Activism, Livelihood (PAL) Training	04/2024 – Present
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)	
IlSCO-Compression Connectors for Electrical Contractors	11/2023 – Present
ILSCO Corporation	
IBEW Code of Excellence	06/2023 – Present
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)	
Journeyman Wireman	06/2023 – Present
IBEW Local 24	
Electrical Journeyman	
Maryland Department of Labor	
Electrical Journeyman	
District of Columbia Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection	

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Outstanding Apprentice Class of 2023	07/2023
Electrical Training Alliance	
IBEW Hour Power apprentice of the year 2023	01/2023
IBEW Hour Power	

VOLUNTEERING & LEADERSHIP

State of Maryland	04/2026 – Present
Workgroup on the Creation of a Data Dashboard for Public Work Contracts and Apprentices	
Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO	11/2025 – Present
Delegate	

Howard County Government

04/2025 - Present

Workforce Development Board Member

The Howard County Workforce Development Board (WDB) is comprised of representatives and leaders from Howard county in conjunction with the areas' partners. The WDB's primary responsibility is to provide guidance, and oversight to the local workforce development system through the Howard County Office of Workforce Development.

IBEW Local 24

06/2024 - Present

Chair of the Examining Board

Maryland New Directions

05/2024 - Present

Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program Industry Advisory Committee

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

06/2023 - Present

IBEW 4th District RENEW Maryland State Representative

The position of IBEW 4th District RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) Maryland State Representative is a vital role within the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and specifically, the RENEW initiative. This role involves a multifaceted set of responsibilities aimed at promoting engagement, leadership development, and community involvement among the next generation of electrical workers in Maryland's 4th District.

Howard County Government

04/2023 - Present

Electrical Examiners Board Member

The Board of Electrical Examiners make recommendations to the Director of Inspections, Licenses & Permits, the County Executive and the County Council on all matters relating to electrical work in Howard County, including the conduct of electrical business and licenses.

Columbia Association

05/2024 - 10/2024

Owen Brown Resident Architectural Committee

RENEW 24

03/2022 - 01/2024

Chair

Since March 2022, I have served as the Chair of the RENEW committee, a role that has given me the opportunity to actively contribute to the ongoing growth and vitality of our union. My tenure saw the establishment of five officer role positions, the creation of the first-ever yearly budget for RENEW, and an increase in membership participation. By facilitating volunteer events and encouraging involvement in our local communities, politics, and the broader labor movement, I have worked to make RENEW a vital platform for apprentices to engage with and contribute to our union.